

OCPS AT Team

iPad/iTouch Assistive Technology Policy

iPad and iTouch devices are engaging and motivating tools for students. Depending on how these devices are used they may be considered as assistive technology or instructional technology when used in the classroom.

**Definitions:**

Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology (AT) promotes greater independence by enabling people to perform tasks that they are unable to accomplish, or have great difficulty accomplishing without an aid. Assistive Technology provides the means for students to access, participate in, and succeed with the general education curriculum. The iPad/iTouch devices serve as a hardware base for providing access to critical software.

Examples of AT software applications on iPad/iTouch

* Communication (Augmentative/Alternative Communication)– Proloquo2Go, Touch Chat
* Writing – Notes, Dragon, Pages
* Reading - Overdrive, Read2Go

Instructional Technology

Instructional Technology is used as a resource for learning and presenting instruction.

Examples of instructional technology apps on an iPad/iTouch:

* Vocabulary Development (kindergarten.com Actions, Emotions, Vehicles, etc.)
* Social Skills training (Conover Co. Community, Safety, Grocery, etc.)
* Articulation therapy (ArticPix)
* Language Development (Sentence Builder)
* Sign language tutorials
* Behavior (Time Timer, Scheduler)
* Books (Dr. Seuss ABC, The Three Bears)
* Letter learning (Letter Tracer)

Assistive technology devices are placed with students in OCPS as part of an evaluation process which includes device trials in the educational environment. iPad/iTouch devices may be considered as a part of this evaluation process. Recommendations are based on a feature matching process, with consideration of identified needs of each individual student and their educational needs.

If an iPad/iTouch is determined to be the best assistive technology tool to meet the student’s educational needs, one will be assigned to the student through the OCPS AT Team. Because other instructional technology applications (apps) present a significant distraction from the intended purpose, no other apps may be loaded on iPad/iTouch devices that have been provided as an assistive technology device by OCPS AT Team.

Decisions regarding a student’s need for instructional technology are made by the school IEP team. Any technology needed to meet instructional goals is provided by the school.